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upon to ward off yellow fever, and will hereafter be disposed to adopt effective preventive measures heretofore deemed unnecessary.

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY,
United States Minister.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

CUBA.

Sanitary report from Havana.

HAVANA, CUBA, *August 12, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit my weekly report of the sanitary conditions of this port, together with the mortuary statistics of the week ended August 10, and report of infectious diseases from the office of the chief sanitary inspector of the city.

In spite of the small amount of yellow fever in the city, there has been nearly the usual amount reported in the shipping. Cases having occurred on the steamships *North Anglia*, *Krim*, and *Sutherland*; on the last 2 while en route from Havana, and aboard 2 vessels in the harbor, the brigantine *Lista* and the lanchan *Estrella*. The cases on the last 2 were contracted ashore; the vessels, however, were disinfected afterwards.

All 3 of the steamships lay at the Casa Blanca, and it is reasonably certain that the first one, the *North Anglia*, contracted the disease there; the same is probably true for the *Krim*; for the *Sutherland*, I think not. The crew, mainly, stayed aboard, liberty not having been allowed, and none of them became sick. The captain was often ashore, and he is the only one who sickened, and died at Santiago.

It would seem reasonable then to look for the source of infection from some place where the captain alone was exposed, rather than to the exposure which he shared in common with the crew, that is, elsewhere than Casa Blanca; still he generally slept aboard the vessel and may have contracted it there. Another case was discovered to-day on board the *Henry L. Gregg*; this vessel lay at the Tallapeidra Wharf about four weeks; the man sickened six days ago. I believe the master of the vessel concealed the case, suspecting it to be yellow fever, and only reported it when he found the man was going to die.

I have ordered, and to-day and to-morrow will make an inspection of every vessel in the harbor by a medical officer, to see if there is any other similar case. In addition to this thing being forbidden by the regulations of this harbor, it is known that from this office we visit and treat free all seamen on American ships. I have taken such measures to enforce the report of all cases of a febrile nature, occurring on board ship, that I am confident that no vessel will omit to do so twice.

Nine cases of yellow fever have been reported to the office of the sanitary inspector during the past week, of which, 2 only were among soldiers, 1 occurring at Cabañas, and 1 on the Punta. The troops from the Punta have been moved away, into the country. The conditions under which the case at Cabañas occurred are such as to lead us to believe it was not contracted in this fortress.

The place was disinfected where this case developed.

And here let me invite your attention to the excellent results secured by Major Armstrong at Principe, by prompt removal and disinfection after the occurrence of a case: In the Fifteenth Infantry Barracks 4 cases of yellow fever developed under conditions which showed that

they were contracted elsewhere. For fully six weeks after the first case developed, there has been no evidence to show that the barracks were infected; indeed, as they were continuously occupied by a large number of nonimmune men none of whom developed fever, the evidence is strong that they were not infected. The result could not have been better.

An examination of the data of the cases here that have occurred within the last fourteen days, shows that nearly all of them were Spaniards newly arrived (within the past six months); and while fairly scattered, the cases have occurred exclusively in the lower part of the city, not far from the water front. None have occurred among the better class, or among the Americans on the Prado. Indeed, save the 2 soldiers and a marine, I think there was but 1 American, a man who worked on the Triscormia Wharf and lived in Casa Blanca, who has been taken down. This is corroborative, as far as it goes, of the position I took in regard to the influence of Spanish immigration on the prevalence of yellow fever, in my report of a couple of weeks ago.

It is to be noted that no cases are reported save of adult males, and that all have gone to hospitals. Yet the Cuban children (last year was a mild yellow fever year, only 161 deaths from that disease in this city) should form a decided majority of the nonimmune population. The average exposure of a young child is, of course, much less than that of the adult, as he goes into far fewer houses; and if the house he resides in is uninfected, he runs no great chance of exposure elsewhere. Yet children are counted decidedly more susceptible to this disease than adults; and here they must be exposed, some of them, to the same sources of infection which has given fever to these adults.

While the disease among children would establish foci of infection, these foci would not, here especially, be apt to show by the infection of adults, because Americans and newly arrived Spaniards (nonimmunes) are infrequent visitors at Cuban homes.

Respectfully, yours,

H. R. CARTER,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Disinfection of cattle ships at Havana.

HAVANA, CUBA, *August 14, 1899.*

SIR: I would respectfully invite your attention to the following inclosures, which are self-explanatory:

The disinfection of "viveros" is going to add much to the work of the station; indeed, the present plant will be pressed much by the demands on it. Still we will do it.

The matter of the cattle vessels, taken up at the urgent request of the military governor and the collector of customs, presents no great difficulty. They especially fear the infection of these vessels with anthrax; whether this be threatened or not, these vessels running trip after trip without any cleansing, as some of them do, are a menace to the health of their crew, as well as to that of the ports they visit.

The statement that yellow fever does not occur on cattle ships is untrue. I have knowledge of five instances of such infection. They lie a short time, a few hours usually, in port, and to this their general exemption is doubtless due. At any rate it is to the interest of general